without interest. We agreed. When these arrangements were placed before the Legislative Council, they were approved by the Council including the Member for Neyyattinkara, and now you say that this arrangement will not do. It is this repeated re-opening of the terms settled from time to time that has been delaying the works. Even now, I am not sure where we stand. You want Government to execute the works. If Government have to incur all the expenditure, it means that they cannot show much result.

As regards the *chira* you mention, money has been allotted in the budget and it is hoped that it will be repaired this year.

With regard to *thodus*, I know that the storm in December has caused considerable damage, and the Chief Engineer has taken the trouble to go round and see the several demages. These *thodus* will be attended to as soon as possible, and as much money as may be found necessary will be spent on them. As for the trees planted on tanks that have silted up, they must go when the tanks are restored. These trees cannot stand in the way of the restoration of the tanks.

48. Difficulties of the ryots of the Nedumangad taluk in re. agriculture and means of communication.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) began his representation by thanking the Government for the measures they were proposing to take to remove the difficulties of land-holders. The Member then suggested that the following measures might be adopted to afford further relief to the ryots.

(1) The numerous *chiras* formerly utilised by the ryots for the irrigation of their lands had now been levelled up by squatters and cocoanut and other trees planted thereon. Those encroachments should be removed promptly and the squatters ordered to level down the *chiras* at their own cost. Government should then take upon themselves the responsibility of keeping those *chiras* under proper maintenance. If Government could not incur the whole cost of such maintenance, the ryots interested might be called upon to contribute one-fourth of such cost.

(2) The Member then invited the attention of the Government to the necessity of providing ample grazing ground for the cattle in the Nedumangad taluk and observed that the lands set apart for cattle-grazing had been encroached upon by adjoining land-owners and that it was highly necessary to detect and remove such encroachments. As far as possible all available waste lands in every *pakuthi* should be set apart for the grazing of cattle.

(3) The Member then spoke about the difficulties experienced by the ryots in the matter of securing sufficient green manure for their cultivation. Formerly, there was no cause for complaint, but as more and more lands were brought under cultivation, they had to resort to distant places for green manure. The Government should render some relief in that direction.

Lastly, the Member urged the necessity of maintaining in a satisfactory condition some of the important roads and pathways in his taluk which were now neglected, and invited the attention of the Government and the Department of Public Works to the following roads requiring immediate repair:—

(1) the road leading from the 12th mile stone on the Trivandrum-Ponmudi road and meeting the Trivandrum-Kottarakara road at the 13th mile stone;

(2) the pathway leading from Puttankode to the Trivandrum-Kottarakara road.

(3) The road from Pallode to Vidura.

Dewan's reply.—The roads you referred to are under maintenance and the Chief Engineer says that he will see that they are improved with the help of the maintenance grants and, if necessary, with special grants.

In the matter of restoration of *chiras* and canals, Government issued the following instructions in September, 1922, to the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam:—

(1) that the head *chiras* should never be registered, but should be reserved as *porambokes*;

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(2) that the springs in the *chiras* should, in no way, be interfered with, so that they may continue to replenish the water supply; and

(3) that the sanction of the Tahsildars should not be insisted on for putting up such temporary bunds as are sanctioned by custom across rivers and canals and that no *poramboke* proceedings should be started by Tahsildars in such cases.

It is found that many of these *chiras* have already been registered. The registry of these *chiras* was a very great mistake. Now, if we want to restore them, we have to pay very heavy compensation. They have been improved, and cocoanut, arecanut and many other fruit-bearing trees have been planted thereon.

Member.—I do not refer to the old registries.

Dewan.—Orders have already been issued that no such *chiras* should be registered in future and that cases of encroachments on them should be detected and dealt with under the Land Conservancy Regulation. I do want the revenue officers to take prompt action in preventing such encroachments. If you will give me instances, I will have enquiries made. These encroachments must be prevented and the *chiras* must be preserved.

In regard to grazing grounds, you have 150 square miles of reserved forests in the taluk, while the area of the taluk itself is not more than 300 square miles. More than one-half of it is thus forest. These forests are not closed for grazing or for the removal of green manure. At the rate of 3 acres per head of cattle, you can graze a very large number of cattle in them. You can get free passes so long as the cattle are indegenous. You can also remove green manure from these forests. I do not see what your difficulties are in regard to grazing and green manure.

49. Agricultural needs of Shencottah.

Mr. Srinivasakam Chenturanatha Pillai (Member, Shencottah Taluk) made the following suggestions in regard to the agricultural needs of the Shencottah taluk.

Firstly, in regard to irrigational facilities, the western *pakuthies* of the Shencottah taluk did not contain any major tanks that could be utilised for purposes of irrigation. The main sources of water supply were the Kundar and the Hanumannadi streams which got dried up soon after the rains. To remove the water scarcity of that part of the taluk, the Member suggested that two major tanks might be constructed so as to hold the water in the above streams. Those two tanks might rescue nearly 300 acres of wet land from drought and could convert nearly 800 acres of single-crop wet lands into double-crop lands and about 900 acres of dry lands into wet.

As regards the eastern part of the taluk, the Member said that, although it contained three major tanks and some minor tanks, only one crop could be raised now from the wet lands served by them, as those tanks had long been in disrepair. The Member suggested that, instead of repair works to such tanks being carried out through contractors, the agriculturists interested might themselves be entrusted with such works.

Secondly, in the matter of green manure, the Member requested that orders might be issued to the Forest Department to allow agriculturists to gather green manure from the adjoining reserves. In that connection, he also requested that cattle belonging to agriculturists be might allowed to graze freely in the reserves.

The third requirement was the introduction of improved methods of agriculture. It was suggested that good private lands might be taken on lease by the Department of Agriculture and cultivated on up-to-date lines so that agriculturists might be educated in improved methods of cultivation. The Member also complained that the local agricultural farm was not situated at a central and convenient spot.

The Member finally suggested the formation of an Irrigation Board consisting of the local D. P. W. Sub-Divisional Officer, the Agricultural Inspector and the prominent agriculturists of each village, for the purpose of carrying out repairs to tanks and other matters relating to irrigation.

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